



Bay Area Dioxins Project



Association of Bay Area
Governments

Summary of Discussions TASK FORCE MEETING December 15, 2003

Attending the conference call meeting were:

Davis Baltz, Commonwealth
JoAnna Bullock, ABAG
Sushma Dhulipala, San Francisco*
Betsy Elzufon, LWA+
Pamela Evans, Alameda County*
Chris Geiger, San Francisco*
John Katz, US EPA
Jennifer Krebs, ABAG
Kelly Moran, TDC+
Debbie Raphael, San Francisco*
Katie Silberman, Center for Environmental Health+
Michael Smith, ABAG
Julie Weiss, Palo Alto*

(+ Task Force consultant, * Task Force member)

1. **Call to order**, 11:00 am

2. **Public Comments** – none

3. **Roundtable Discussion.**

John Katz reported that the national Dioxins Reassessment report is currently being reviewed by the National Academy of Sciences. The US EPA is working on the Dioxin Exposure Initiative to determine the exposure pathways to dioxins for persons in the United States. He stated that new policies and regulations for dioxins are waiting for finalization of the Dioxins Reassessment. He also said to keep an eye out for the reassessment report because the findings in the report could impact existing policies and regulations.

A number of comments were received from participants thanking the Task Force for their efforts to raise awareness in local government about the dioxins issue.

4. **Review of Final Report.**

Betsy Elzufon and Kelly Moran discussed the preliminary version of the Final Report for the Dioxins Task Force. Task Force members reviewed the content and were solicited for comments.

Pam Evans had a question about how the tables related to local implementation efforts were structured as the information in the two (one in the document and one as an attachment) did not match up. Kelly stated that the table in the appendix was the full version of the information they had related to local efforts. The table in the body of the report was a

summary table that was a subset of the table in the appendix. Kelly went on to state that the relationship between the two tables could be confusing and that she and Betsy would add language to the report that clarified the relationship between the two.

Debbie Raphael had a question about the advantages of bio-diesel and oxy-diesel because she could not find the information in the report. Kelly responded by stating that the information could be found in the *Screening Evaluation of Dioxins Pollution Prevention Options (September 2001)* report and that the final report is intended to build on the content of the group's first report. She stated that language would be added to the report to define the relationship between the two documents and that reference notes would be added in some cases to include information from the first report in the final report.

Debbie also noted that there was some language confusion within the implementation efforts table that suggested that they were things that cities could do, yet there were things that had already been done. Betsy and Kelly stated that the language was carried over from the original report and that the language would be corrected for the final draft.

There was also some discussion about the lack of information on public participation or outreach in the final report. Kelly stated that the final report concentrated on the second half of the Dioxins Project following the Screening Evaluation report. As a result, it does not include the extensive public outreach and participation that were part of the first half of the project (public meetings, dioxins workshop, and dioxins vendor fair). Debbie stated that outreach and education is a concrete accomplishment that could be incorporated into the implementation efforts table. Jennifer Krebs stated that ABAG staff could come up with something that the consultants would be able to plug into the report. Ideas were also given for including the information in the project description portion of the report.

Finally, there was some discussion about the Laguna Honda Hospital project in San Francisco. At the completion of the discussion, it was decided that inclusion of information on the project would be dependent on hearing something definite from San Francisco prior to the comment deadline for the report as the project is on-going and is in a current state of flux.

Jennifer stated that ABAG staff would take care of the cover and acknowledgements for the final report and that the required EPA grant information would be included along with the disclaimers that appeared in the Screening Evaluation report.

The Task Force ended discussion on this item by approving the preliminary version of the final report. When the final draft is complete (January 2004), the report will be forwarded to all Task Force members for final review and approval.

5. Public Comments – none

6. Adjourn, 12:00 pm

The December 15, 2003 meeting was the final meeting date of the ABAG Dioxins Task Force. This project is no longer active.